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## FACT SHEET

# Ambassador's Small Grants Program (ASGP) to Support Gender Equality in Afghanistan

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Ambassador's Small Grants Program (ASGP) to Support Gender Equality was launched in July 2009. It provides institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil society organizations (CSOs) via grants. It aims to improve gender equality and to specifically help women secure opportunities and advocate for themselves. ASGP works closely with the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) and Afghan CSOs in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

The goal of ASGP is to improve the status and quality of life of Afghan women and girls by strengthening the capacity of women-focused CSOs to contribute to the social, economic, and political development of women. Flexible grants address emerging local Afghan women's groups' needs, while empowering them to expand their activities. Areas of focus include education, literacy, health, economic opportunities, gender-based violence, advocacy, access to justice, coalition building, public awareness, and peaceful co-existence.

#### **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

- **Institutional capacity development**: Assess organizational capacity and tailor an Institutional Strengthening Plan for larger CSO partners
- **Grants**: Fund four types of flexible rapid-response grants: quick impact grants, service delivery grants, advocacy coordination grants, and technical sustainability grants
- Advocacy: Support the Afghan Women's Advocacy Coalition, a group of 20 ASGP civil-society organization partners, to promote public education and advocacy of women, and support the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan goals nationwide

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Provided gender mainstreaming and institutional development support to more than 100 womenfocused CSOs
- Conducted institutional and gender audits to assess organizational needs and provide ongoing technical support
- Awarded 373 grants to support women-focused civil society groups totaling \$5.9 million
- Reached nascent organizations to offer project support, gender mainstreaming, and economic development assistance through more than 346 quick impact grants totaling \$2.4 million